

# ART BULL

The Newsletter of Boston University's Art History Graduate Students

---

Spring Semester, May 2009

Welcome to the Spring 2009 publication of the *Art Bull*! I want to thank everyone who contributed to our department's newsletter this semester and congratulate everyone on their personal and professional achievements. I had a wonderful time editing the *Art Bull* this year, and I hope you enjoy this semester's edition.

Have a wonderful summer break!  
Dorothy Nieciecki  
dorota@bu.edu

---

## FACULTY

**Jodi Cranston** has been busy with several projects this year; the most satisfying has been the arrival of her daughter, Camille. In October, Professor Cranston organized a symposium at Columbia University in honor of her former doctoral advisor, David Rosand. She also delivered a paper there on her recent work on Titian's later paintings and is editing an anthology of essays on Venetian Renaissance painting in honor of Rosand. Her book, "The Muddled Mirror: Materiality and Figuration in Titian's Later Paintings," will be published with Penn State University Press in late 2009. Jodi Cranston has also been working on a review of the terrific current MFA exhibition of Venetian painting entitled "Titian, Tintoretto, Veronese: Rivals in Renaissance Venice," which is on view until August 16, 2009.

**Patricia Hills** is putting the finishing touches on her book, "Painting Harlem

Modern: The Art of Jacob Lawrence," to be published in October 2009 by the University of California Press. She will curate an exhibition, "Jacob Lawrence: The Toussaint L'Ouverture Series" for the Rudenstine Gallery at the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, Harvard University, that will open to the public on September 1, 2009. Professor Hills also participated as a commentator in the recent symposium, "Clement Greenberg at 100," held at Harvard University on April 3 and 4, 2009. Patricia Hills is also Field Editor for *caa.reviews*, the on-line journal of the College Art Association. As the Field Editor, she commissions reviews of exhibitions, and sometimes conferences, that occur in the Northeast.

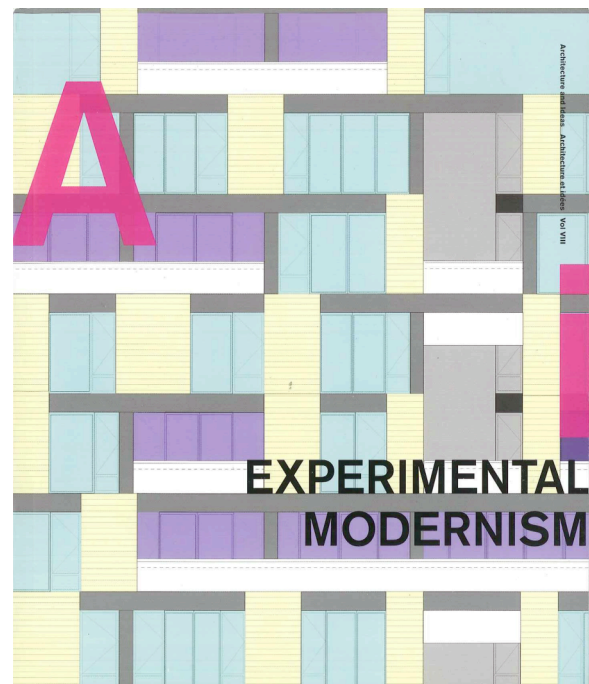
**Keith Morgan** served as the editor and one of the principal authors, along with former Boston University colleagues Naomi Miller and Richard Candee, for *Buildings of Massachusetts: Metropolitan Boston*, published by the University of Virginia Press on April 1, 2009. A number of former

and current Boston University graduate students also contributed to the guidebook, which is part of the 62-volume series, *Buildings of the United States*, being sponsored by the Society of Architectural Historians. Keith Morgan is continuing his work on “Community by Design: The Frederick Law Olmsted office and the Making of Brookline, Massachusetts, 1880–1936,” supported by a grant from the National Park Service and the Organization of American Historians.

**Jonathan Ribner** has given public lectures at the Museum of Fine Arts in association with the exhibition “Titian, Tintoretto, Veronese: Rivals in Renaissance Venice.” He presented four lectures in the series *Italy from the Renaissance to Today: Artists and Ideas* on March 11, April 8, 15, and 29, 2009. Jonathan Ribner also presented “Venetian Traits and Treasures” in the series *Viewing Venice* on March 12, 2009, and “Stagecraft and Passion in Italian Art” in *Italy on Stage*, a Sunday program of lectures and musical performance on March 15, 2009.

**Paolo Scrivano** co-edited a monographic issue of the journal *Architecture and Ideas* (VIII/1 2009, “Experimental Modernism”) dedicated to the architecture of the 1960s and 1970s in Canada (the volume also contains his co-authored article on the case of University of Toronto’s Scarborough College). He also wrote the entry “Architecture” that was published in *The Palgrave Dictionary of Transnational History*. Paolo Scrivano co-chaired the session “Photography and Architecture: Shaping a New Dialogue” at the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the College Art Association in Los Angeles and acted as respondent at the workshop “What Site?” at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and at the conference “Futurism at 100: The

Measure of a Century, 1909–2009” at Harvard University. On leave from teaching during the 2009 fall term thanks to a Boston University Humanities Foundation Junior Fellowship, Professor Scrivano will work on the completion of the manuscript of his next book, currently titled “Architecture and Planning Between Italy and the United States, 1945–1965.”



The cover of “Experimental Modernism,” a monographic issue of *Architecture and Ideas* (VIII/1 2009) co-edited by Paolo Scrivano

**Alice Tseng** will be traveling to Japan this summer to continue her current book project on artistic and architectural expressions of modern Kyoto. She has already published a portion of this research in an *Art Bulletin* article (September 2008 issue); last month, Alice Tseng presented her latest findings at the annual meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians.

**Gregory Williams** is in the second semester of a leave of absence with the

support of a non-residential Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Getty Foundation. He is hard at work on his book manuscript, which explores the relationship between humor, art and politics in Germany from the 1960s to the present. The only minor detour this semester has been the submission of a short essay for a forthcoming exhibition catalogue on the artist Olav Westphalen.

**Michael Zell** has been awarded a Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellowship from the Boston University Humanities Foundation. The fellowship allows him to devote the entire 2009–2010 academic year to working on his next book, tentatively entitled "For the Love of Art: Gift Exchange, Amateurs, and the Poetics of Painting in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Culture." Professor Zell has also been invited to participate in the conference "Expanding the Field of Rembrandt Studies" at Queen's University's International Study Center, Hertsmonceux Castle, England, in June.

## GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Christina An** has been reminded how much she appreciates being at Boston University after wrapping up her first year of courses. She is grateful for the opportunities she has had over the past year to learn and to be involved in the community here, from working at the Boston University Art Gallery to moderating a session for the 2009 GSAHA symposium, "Chance". This summer Christina An will be preparing for the M.A. comprehensive exam, helping to organize study sessions as a Comprehensive Exam Preparation Coordinator together with Sarah Parrish, before returning in the fall to serve as GSAHA Vice President/Treasurer. She wishes everyone a happy summer!

**Hannah Blunt** was invited to give a paper on March 27, 2009 at the CUNY Graduate Center's Sixth Annual Graduate Student Symposium in Nineteenth-Century Art. Her paper, "William Bradford's *The Arctic Regions*," explores the 1869 Greenland expedition of marine painter William Bradford and his subsequent publication of a photographic travelogue as a product of the mid-century Great Picture tradition. Of the seven other readers, one was a fellow graduate of her tiny alma mater, Davidson College. Small world!

**Katherine Carroll** spent the fall conducting archival research for her dissertation, "Modernizing the American Medical School, 1893–1940: Architecture, Pedagogy, Professionalization, and Philanthropy." This spring, she received a scholarship funded by the Walter Read Hovey Memorial Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation that will enable her to complete the archival portion of her dissertation research this summer. More recently, she was awarded a Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowship in American Art, which will allow her to work full-time on her dissertation beginning in the fall.

**Keith Doherty** is plodding along through what has become a rather exhausting final stretch on his dissertation. It turns out that scheduling a defense really can be almost as difficult as writing the thing! In truth he cannot complain however. Keith Doherty and his wife are healthy and about to celebrate their second wedding anniversary with a trip to Crete and Santorini.

**Jenny Ernst** has been enjoying her first year as a M.A. student at Boston University, and is very pleased with her decision to return to school after receiving her Bachelor of Architecture and working in that field for the past six years. Jenny Ernst's research

interests concern nineteenth-century architectural history. Interestingly, the research that she has been doing this semester for a paper on the domestic interiors depicted in the art of Danish painter Vilhelm Hammershoi has led to her interest in pursuing further studies on Scandinavian architecture of the nineteenth–early twentieth centuries.

**Meghen Jones** has been in Japan since January at the National Museum of Modern Art Crafts Gallery doing research for her dissertation on Tomimoto Kenkichi and modern Japanese ceramics. Her essay “Amerika ni okeru ‘nihon kindai tôgei’ no gainen keisei ~ Hamada to Rosanjin no yûisei” [“The Concept Formation of ‘Modern Japanese Ceramics’ in the United States: The Dominance of Hamada and Rosanjin”] was published in the April–May 2009 issue of *Gendai no Me: Tokyo Kokuritsu Kindai Bijutsukan News* [*Modern Eye: Tokyo National Museum of Modern Art News*]. Meghen has been happy to see Boston University Art History M.A. alumnae Sandrine Lacorie and Quintana Heathman in Tokyo.



Examining a porcelain octagonal box with gold and silver overglaze enamel fern pattern, 1959, by Tomimoto Kenkichi, at the Crafts Gallery of the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo

**Michelle Lamunière** successfully defended her dissertation, “The Social Museum at Harvard: Francis Greenwood Peabody and Early Twentieth-Century Social Reform Photography in Context,” at the end of March. After handing in her final copies, Michelle is looking forward to the Hooding Ceremony in May and some lazy summer days. Yippee!!!

**Amber Ludwig** remains at work on her dissertation. In March, she traveled to Richmond, VA to give a paper titled “The Effects of Matrimony on Lady Hamilton's *Attitudes*” at the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies annual meeting. The paper argued that images of Emma Hamilton performing her famed *Attitudes*, a series of poses based on Classical myth and ancient statuary, changed after her marriage to Sir William Hamilton to emphasize her thoughtfulness and intelligence. Chapter two of Amber's dissertation builds upon this argument and looks further at portraits of Lady Hamilton engaged in her *Attitudes*.

**Holly Markovitz** delivered two conference papers in spring 2009 including “A Mythological Monument: Deborah Bright's Plymouth Rock” at the Great Lakes American Studies Association (GLASA) Annual Conference at the University of Notre Dame, and “A Legacy of Progress and Destruction: Robert Adams's ‘Turning Back’” at the Sixth Annual American Art History Symposium at Yale University.

**Dorothy Nieciecki** has had a wonderful experience serving as the editor of the *Art Bull* this year. This summer, Dorothy will be teaching AH111: Introduction to Art History I (Antiquity to the Middle Ages) for Boston University's Summer Term program and researching for her dissertation prospectus. Dorothy also plans to make time to enjoy all

the sights and summer activities Boston has to offer.



BU alumnae, Sandrine Lacorie and Natasha Fanson, pose with Dorothy Nieciecki in front of a Near Eastern relief and matching flower arrangement at the MFA's *Art in Bloom* in April 2009

**Austin Porter**, PhD student in American art history, enjoyed working as a discussion section leader for AH112: Introduction to Art History II this spring. In addition to finishing his coursework this semester, Austin led an intercession class at the Art Institute of Boston, Lesley University, on American Art in the 1960s. In March he gave a lecture on American Impressionism at the Fitchburg Art Museum in Fitchburg, MA that coincided with the exhibition "All Things Bright and Beautiful: California Impressionism." Austin continues to provide research assistance for Professor Alston Purvis's (CFA) upcoming textbook on the History of Graphic Design. This summer Austin will teach the History of Photography at Boston University while preparing for the qualifying exam. He will also celebrate his one-year wedding anniversary.

**Ginger Elliott Smith** is concluding her final semester of PhD courses, and has continued to happily serve as GSAHA

President for the remainder of this year. This semester she was privileged to represent our department at our symposium "Chance" in March, for which she delivered a paper entitled "Spontaneous Destruction: Jean Tinguely's Study for an End of the World, No. 2". She served as the Teaching Fellow for AH391, taught this semester by her lovely colleague, Tara Ward. Ginger also assumed the role as a part-time faculty member in the Department of Visual & Media Arts at Emerson College this term, which has proven to be a very rewarding experience. This summer she hopes to focus on orals preparation, while also assisting on an exhibition of contemporary art at the Boston University Art Gallery (scheduled to be on view Winter 2010). Ginger will also be teaching AH497 in Summer Session II at Boston University, which will be an undergraduate seminar focused on "The Long 1960s."

**Jaime Wilson** has had a very eventful year. While finishing her prospectus, she continued to teach seminars in Greek and Roman art and architecture at Massachusetts College of Art and Design (finishing up her 7<sup>th</sup> year!) and architectural history at the Boston Architectural College. Now in her fourth year at the BAC, Jaime was invited by the school's president Ted Landmark to attend the BAC Board Retreat in January. This was an amazing opportunity for Jaime to be a part of changes in the school's curriculum and to generally discuss the future of higher education in the U.S. with other educators. Also, as part of her spring course "Theories in Architectural Preservation" at the BAC, Jaime took her students to Greece for eleven days to explore the social and political motivations behind preservation and restoration of ancient sites. This was Jaime's first time taking students abroad. To say she was a little anxious about the trip is an



understatement. Repeated dreams of students falling off of mountains or getting lost in the maze of streets in Athens kept her awake many a night! Thankfully, the trip was a complete success, and everyone returned home safe and sound. Jaime now is preparing for the end of the semester. In mid-May she is off once again to Europe. This time she will be visiting Rome for a week and then heading to England for two weeks. The rest of her summer will be spent reading for her dissertation and preparing an abstract submission for the AIA conference in January 2010.



Jaime and her students standing in front of the east façade of the Parthenon on a cold and rainy day in March